

A
SERIOUS ADDRESS
TO THE
PUBLIC,

CONCERNING

The most probable Means of avoiding the Dangers of INOCULATION.

Very necessary to be read by Parents and Guardians who design to inoculate their Children, &c. as well as by Adults who chuse to be inoculated.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

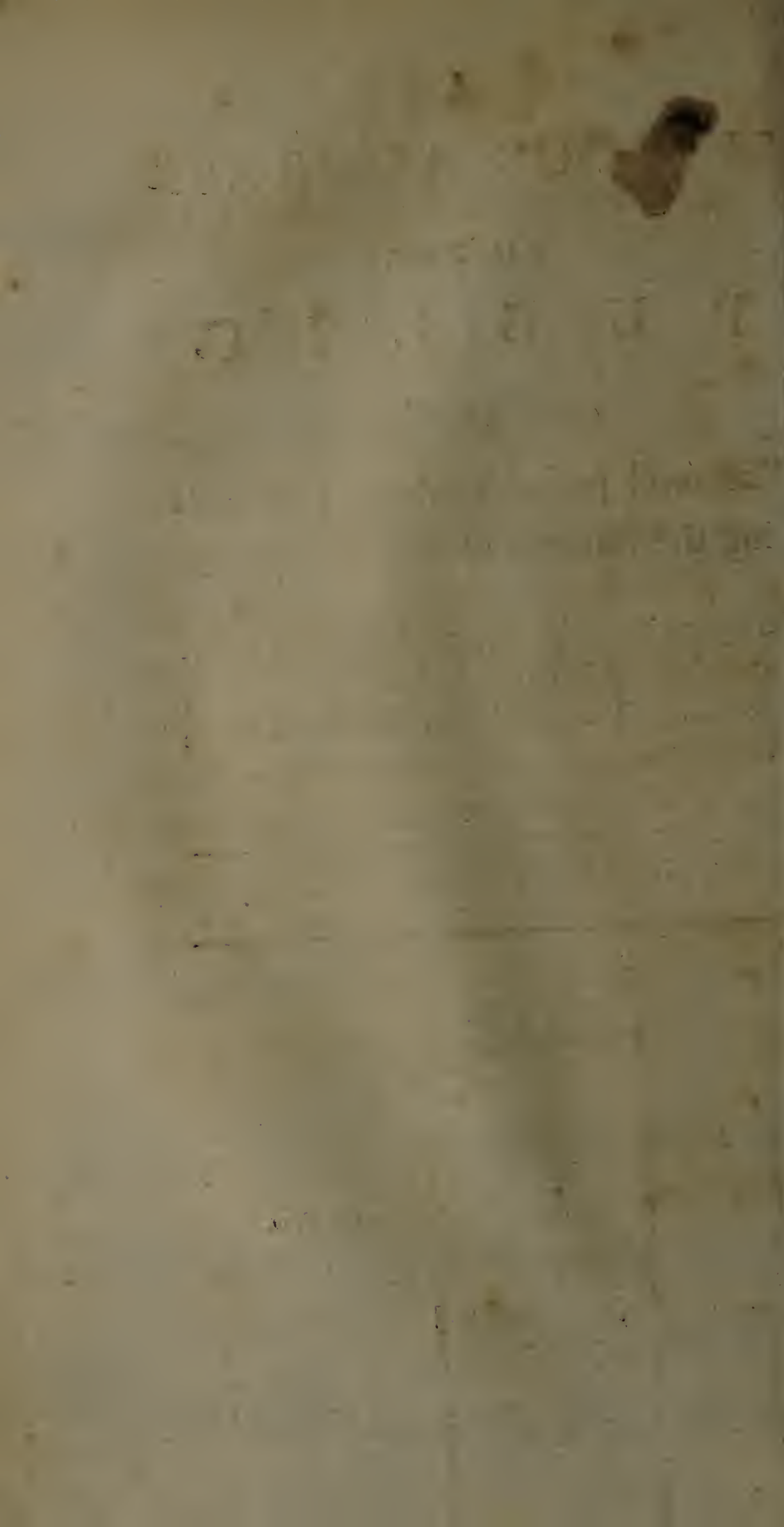


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T O T H E
R E A D E R.

THE Design of this little Piece, is to warn every one to undertake Inoculation with that Assistance, and in that Manner, which will most probably prevent bad Accidents ; for if by the Artifice and Persuasion of some who are interested, or some who are deceived, or the Want of right Information, any do not take the Measures most conducive thereto, late Repentance will come, and deprive them of the Consolation

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which pours Balm into the Wounds of the Afflicted, who know that they have done all that Man can do to make the Undertaking prosperous. Compassion for the Distressed by such Misfortunes, has moved the Author to give what Light he has Opportunity to do in this Affair, hoping his Endeavours to rectify Mistakes will meet with the Approbation of every unprejudiced Person, as he can answer for the Goodness of his Intentions ; and he has Reason to believe, that the Public will receive no small Advantage from his Cautions, provided they are faithfully observed.



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SERIOUS ADDRESS

TO THE

PUBLIC, &c.

LENGTH of Time has convinced great Numbers, that it is best to go through the Small-pox by the Artificial Way. Those who have strongly opposed its Progress, remain now generally silent, having had all their Arguments, which have the Appearance of Weight, confuted by ample Experience; or if they do utter any thing to its Prejudice, this is furnished them by some who at random execute, their own Gain being their Aim, whatever is desired by any who happen to fall in their Road. The greatest

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Injury

Injury must be done to the Cause, if this is permitted to escape unnoticed, the Accidents will increase with the Number of the Unwary, and as far as it is possible, the Course of Things will be impeded, and prevented in a great measure from reaching their good Ends. Inconsiderate Friends may here do more harm than open and avowed Enemies. To prevent the Evil, it is worth while to take some Pains, and it is an Act of Humanity to shew the Path which leads the Wanderers to what they so earnestly desire, whose Ignorance, or Want of Consideration, makes them not seldom eagerly embrace the proffered Service of any one they meet, who promises to conduct them the right Way, though he does not know it, nor the Dangers which may occur in the Journey, or how to provide against the Inconveniencies which prove troublesome, and produce fatal Consequences.

The many and amazing Benefits reaped from Inoculation, cannot fail to give much Satisfaction to every humane Breast, who
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does not behold the Afflictions of his Fellow-creatures without feeling their Distress, which is very frequently in the Small-pox by common Infection so extremely great and terrible, that Language is quite insufficient to give a just Description. The Number of Lives saved by the artificial Method of having the Distemper, is unquestionably a full Recommendation of its Goodness, and ought to excite all who wish to give Ease, or preserve their Species, to take care that this most excellent Invention is administered in such a Manner, and with such Cautions, as are necessary for their receiving all the Advantages that must naturally arise, provided they do not neglect to make use of the Means they have in their Power to obtain them, in their utmost Extent.

I have been induced to address the Public on this Head, as I have heard from several Persons at sundry times, that such a one, and such have died by Inoculation. Some will every now and then be lost unavoidably, even where the proper Persons

are employed, and those Measures taken which ought at all times, if we would deserve Success, for no Mortal can command it.

Yet it has been alledged by one, that he has inoculated * 900, by another * 1600, and not one has died out of the Number; by a third, that in a Number which he had under his Care, amounting to more than † 1200, from three Years old to the Age of 62, many of these afflicted with the Asthma, Rheumatism, Scurvy, Hysterics, and Chlorosis, one only died by the Fault of the Nurse. These Reports can be understood only, either that they have left out of the Account those of them who died, and reckoned so many less; or else it is meant, that whenever any were in a desperate way, another Person was called in, and as they were no longer concerned alone for them, they did not chuse to count them amongst their other Patients, for whom they acted without

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* See Dr. *Schultz's* Account of Inoculation, page 109. London 1758.

† ————— page 25.

any Body else ; but I would have these Gentlemen consider, that should they be believed to speak the Truth, without any kind of Subterfuge, no Man of common Understanding can then think their Aid, on this occasion, in any Degree useful ; and I must confess that I believe, that the Numbers that have been reported to have been inoculated without any Loss, has made some have a Notion, that there is no kind of Danger whatsoever, that it may be done in any Place, at any Time, no Regard had to the Subject, nor any Sort of Management made use of previous to the Performance. This Sentiment has been embraced with the greatest Avidity, and most zealously propagated by the Surgeons, who found they could profit themselves by the Opinion, it being vastly convenient, as they have little Knowledge of internal Medicines, or have not much attended to their Power or Efficacy ; wherefore they are very glad, on every Opportunity, to say there is no Necessity for them ; it is true it requires Skill to exhibit them
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with Judgment, yet this Difficulty ought not to make us lay them aside, since every Man who has the least attended to this Matter, must have good Cause from Observation to declare, that they are frequently of great Service in many Cases. What Part of the Profession is exercised by these Gentlemen, who do their utmost to explode the Use of Internals, this by them is said to be the only Part profitable to Mankind, all the rest is not worth any Esteem, it is an Imposition on the Public, contrived by artful Men for their own Purposes, beneficial alone to those who practise, and not to the Patient: such often is their Discourse in common Conversation, they abuse others in order to gain Reputation to themselves. But finding they are not so frequently credited as they desire, they on this account have recourse to other Means; and endeavour to make one believe that it is best to inoculate Children at the Breast, hereby they propose to exclude more effectually the Physician, as there is not
much

much to be done for the Patient at this Time of Life by Medicines. How far they are justified in recommending Inoculation so early, will appear by the Sequel, the Counsel they give is evidently suspicious, and cannot miss to lose its Authority with the considerate Part of the World.

I was formerly of the Faculty, but kind Fortune happened to smile on me, and by one good-natured Act of hers, raised me up to that Pitch of Circumstance, that I am not obliged to drudge on in the Practice of Physick; yet I cannot forbear loving the Art, which for some Time I industriously applied to, I am concerned for its Honour, this cannot fail to be impeached, if Inoculation is suffered to be abused, and to lose its Credit, which must depart, if it is not performed by or under the Inspection of such, who are most likely to be well acquainted with the Small-pox both natural and artificial. The best Remedies have no good Virtue, or do Mischief misapplied. I am therefore not a little fearful, lest a Thing so greatly salutary,

tary, should come into Discredit amongst us, by the astonishing Imprudence of those who undergo, and perform it ; for the Men who are most able to set this Matter in a clear and convenient Light, to prevent the vile Impositions laid on the Public, have as yet not tried to undeceive the Ignorant, or marked out the Way that should be pursued. The Reason perhaps that it is not done, though it is a Duty they owe themselves and Mankind, must be this, that they doubt if due Regard will be paid to their Remonstrances, as those who would be affected by them, would immediately exclaim, unjustly however, saying, it is not Respect for the Art that urges them to speak, or any Compassion for those who suffer by wrong Conduct ; no, it is their own dear selves that they plead for, and the Injured are out of the Question. If this is the Case, People ought to be particularly cautious, and make a thorough Inquiry into the Nature of this Business, that they may not be imposed upon, by such who are
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interested to deceive; for which Purpose I shall mention a few Things, which come into my Mind at present, in Expectation that it will be an Incitement to some more able Hand, to take the Trouble to do this in a more complete Manner, so as to gain proper Attention; and I hope he will not stand in awe of the above-mentioned Reproach, as it must appear to every Person, who considers, to belong more to the Man who makes it, from a Consciousness no doubt that it is his own Motive to Action, especially when it is found, that he has not the Title to be employ'd, as he makes the Ignorant imagine.

Could Physicians be persuaded to undertake the Whole, doing the Operation with their own Hands, it would be better for the Patients inoculated, as they would have the most capable Persons to determine what Time is proper, what Diet, what Medicines, and in case any other Disease does arise, they certainly know what is best to be done; but by using another for the Operation, who makes no scruple to act

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out of Character, and does not keep his own Track, and as he has an Opportunity to say he inoculated such and such a one, that is, made the Scratch, and put in the infected Thread ; hearing this it makes some conceive, that nothing else besides is necessary, except what this important Operator performs, or is acquainted with.

Great Simpletons indeed ! I must beg leave to inform them, that this Malady is more or less bad, according to the Disposition which it finds in the Afflicted. This is affirmed by Persons of the greatest Experience, and their Testimony is indisputable ; do they act right then, who rest satisfied with such who say nothing need ever to be done, besides the Operation ? Great Numbers are seen to die daily by common Infection, where Excess has preceded, or a bad Habit of Body for this Distemper is present. It seems therefore prudent to take such Steps, as will avoid these Inconveniences, most reasonable surely to apply to those, who know this Malady in all its Shapes and Circumstances, they

they will give the best Advice, having observed its different Effects on different Bodies, they are the Guides worth following, whose Care and Judgment will not allow of Excess either way; the Patient will be by them sufficiently, and not too much reduced, the Strength necessary for promoting the Eruption preserved, and nought left to do harm. No one ever thought the Surgeon qualified, or to be depended upon in the natural Small-pox, although he often in this Case is called in to bleed, which is more difficult, and important than the Operation we mean; and he may then with the same Justice presume to conduct the Patient through the natural Way, as pretend to do it when he is called in to inoculate. It is of no Consequence who performs the Operation, provided that what is proper to be done before and afterwards is not omitted. If the Surgeon is used at any Time, confine him to the Works of his Profession, and provide a Physician to direct the Management, Diet, and Medicines, which last must

be supposed to know more of this Disease than the other, and how to act in every respect, for it is the same as that by common Contagion ; yet where right Means are used, it is rendered more mild, for the most part it scarcely merits the Name of a Disorder, and is rarely fatal.

If it is thought convenient to employ only one, the most knowing should be preferred, I mean the Physician, lest for Want of due Caution, Diet, Management, and proper Medicines, the Patient runs greater Risk than there is need of, or loses his Life by the Transaction. Begin aright, for it is better to have no Mischief present, than to be obliged to seek its Remedy, and it is agreeable and beneficial to have this at hand, lest it may be required ; thus there will be more Security, which will appear more manifest, if we go on, and consider in a general way, what a Number of Ailments human Nature is Heir to.

First then, the Health of a Child at the Breast, not only depends on its own good
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Habit of Body, but likewise on that of the Woman who suckles; this tender Creature too often receives not the Milk of her who bore it for several Months in her Womb, and whose Juices in all likelihood are most agreeable to its Temperament; but perchance it is suckled by a Nurse, who lived before that in the Country, used more Exercise, and a more simple kind of Food, now this is changed for a Town-air, little or no Exercise, and luxurious Living; what Mischiefs may hence accrue, is too glaring, a Legion of Maladies to the Nurse, which must produce, and form in the poor Infant, who sucks, a Multitude of Ills; but should the Mother's Constitution permit, and she is so good as to follow Nature's Law, and nourish her Offspring, still it remains, that Health must be preserved in two at the same Time, which is certainly a more difficult Task, than to do it in one. The delicate Frame of the little one is easily disordered, and its Want of sufficient Strength makes it struggle with no small Difficulty thorough an Illness;

should Pustules arise in its Mouth and Throat, it may be prevented from sucking, and what can be substituted in its Room, if the Comfort of the Breast is refused? The Mouth and Throat being thus sore will be an unlucky Circumstance, and a small Number of Pustules will do more harm here, than a much greater Quantity placed on the external Parts of the Body; for setting aside the Uneasiness caused by them, troublesome Sores and Boils are formed in the Gums. During this Time, their Bowels are frequently out of Order, and cause numerous Calamities to these poor little Lambs, they cannot describe their Complaints, and if the Cause of the Affliction is guessed at, what Difficulties attend the Application of a Remedy. Before they can smile on their Parents, cruel Death comes, and remorseless nips the Bud of Life, almost upon its first Appearance. Yet if Parents or Friends, insist upon having Infants inoculated at the Breast, because some may be obsti-

obstinate in this Notion, the Physician should be particularly careful to inform them of every thing that may be dreaded, that if the Event does not prove successful, no Blame may be laid to his Charge, who has warned them of the Danger, and is mortified sufficiently by the Loss of the Patient. But as some, who have been inoculated at the Breast, have succeeded, if he is required to undertake it, I think he should not leave it to be done by the Surgeon.

Furthermore, the Number of Children that die before two Years old, shew great Dangers attend this Time of Life; some who have examined the Bills of Mortality, make the Number of them to be equal to a third of the Whole of all Ages put together; this shews evidently, that one ought to act with great Circumspection during this Interval. Teething is a hazardous Trial, full of Peril, many hence run great Risks; and what dreadful Consequences are not produced by Convulsions!

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It would be tedious to relate the Train of Ills they are subject to till four or five Years old.

If Children are inoculated in this Period, the Success is hazardous, they may suffer most severely, and we have it not in our Power to help them, as well as we can those who are older. Every one must be sensible, from the Multitude of Complaints which they are liable to, that it is necessary to have frequently the Assistance of the Physician, whose Province it is, without doubt, to remove the Causes of their Disorders, which prove so often, when the Small-pox is not present, very troublesome, and by woful Experience, too commonly followed by Fatality. It is acknowledged there are considerable Difficulties here, with regard to the Means of the Cure, whence it is not so easy to be found, or hit upon; those Gentlemen then, who are applied to in these Circumstances, and esteemed to have the most perfect Judgment and Skill herein,
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when they are the only Afflictions, should, with all the Reason in the World, be always employed, especially if any who are exposed to the recited Distempers, are to receive in the artificial Way this Disease, I mean the Small-pox, whose Nature they are best acquainted with, being reasonably esteemed the most capable to relieve and assist Nature, whenever she has this Burden in the natural Way. Yet the Presumption of the Surgeon is somewhat encouraged, as he finds Persons, who, for want of Knowledge or Thought, lay the chief Stress of this Business, not upon its proper Foundation, namely, the State of Body for receiving the Infection, though the least Attention imaginable, given to what happens in the common way, must convince an Observer, that from the Contagion in the same Instant, different Habits are differently affected, some with the worst Kind, others with the most favourable. Infants appear most evidently to implore the greatest Care, and many Hard-

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ships are contended with in having such Patients. Prudence will therefore suggest, and demand for the most part, that a more eligible Season be fix'd on; I say the Space that lies between five and twelve Years of Age; in this Duration the Body is most generally freest from Diseases, the Children may be managed, have not begun the Excesses of riper Years, the Cares of Life and the Passions do not yet prey upon the Spirits, and cause those Impediments to a Recovery and good Event, which may arise and prove incurable at other Times.

Nevertheless, at this best of Seasons, Precaution is ever necessary, for there may be Diseases which ought first to be removed, and such bad Habits of Body which will infallibly prove mischievous, unless they are avoided, or corrected beforehand by Medicines, exhibited with sound Judgment; as this is the Truth, no one sure will be so heedless to undertake, even at this Time, what may turn out ill with-
out

But the best Advice, when it is to be got, and at no dearer Rate than that of a Surgeon, if he is a Man of Rank in his Profession, who cannot be supposed, if any one considers, and yet no Discredit to him, to understand this Business so well as the Physician.

The Ages after this Period claim assuredly not less Skill, as it is manifest there is more Hazard from a Variety of Causes; it behoves then more especially to have Recourse to the Person recommended, who will judge now, and always best of the Body's State, if there is any Disease to be removed, how far Preparation is to be carried, and what Kind is required, the suitable Diet will be directed by him, and every other thing provided for, which concerns the Patient's Welfare.

I cannot forbear here to take notice, that the Consideration of the Evils that arise to the Public from the unskilful Practitioner, has induced the King of *Sweden* to order, that none shall be inoculated in

his Kingdom, but under the Care and Direction of a Doctor of Physic *.

Whenever Inoculation is practised, Care should be taken that the Patient be in a proper State of Health, with regard to the Body, and easy in his Mind, lest what lurks within is made worse, and productive of some Malady or Death itself. It is known that sometimes those who are fond of being inoculated, will conceal Illness they ought to discover; and some who may be concerned for them in this Matter, either are not able, or do not chuse to be too inquisitive, as they think they may miss the Opportunity of inoculating, or putting Money into their Pockets on that account; and if it is delayed Accidents may happen, and another be employed in their Stead. Let the Complaints that affect any one be inquired into, and first removed, before this Business is entered upon, by consulting a Physician, who knows sufficiently the natural and artificial

* *Schultz's Account of Inoculation*, page 116. Translated from the *Swedish Original*. London 1758.

tificial Disease; and as Preparation will do Service, which every one must be convinced of, who considers, what is often observed in the natural Way, to arise from Diet and Medicines, he it is who can prescribe such Food, and other Things, as are fit to put the Patient in a good State for receiving the Infection; to these he will add a refraining from all violent Exercise, the sparing Use, or absolute Restraint from all Flesh-meats, and strong Liquors, &c. and will require the Patient to be confined to an airy Apartment, which may be heated or cooled as there is Occasion, cutting off all kind of Intercourse that can possibly communicate the Small-pox in the common Way. This Method must be persisted in fourteen Days at least before the Operation is performed, for that Space is quite requisite, to declare with Certainty, that he is clear from the Disease by common Contagion. The too frequent Neglect of this last Caution, calls aloud for the severest Reprimand, as it may be attended

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with the worst of Consequences; and therefore it is most earnestly wished, that no one will dare to venture for the future to inoculate, without keeping the Patients up the necessary Time before-hand, and not suffer them to go abroad, unless he is willing to shew to every one, who has the least Consideration, that he knows not what he is about, and that he deserves to be branded all over with Infamy, who can be so strangely stupid, as not to insist that this is punctually observed. If it is not, the Patients may be infected by the ordinary Way, and so can receive no Benefits from Inoculation. The Evils caused by this bad Conduct, flings Blame on the Practice, salutary in itself, from the Madness of those by whom it is exercised. Thus Mankind may be induced to lay aside what is so evidently calculated for the public Good, to mitigate the Afflictions of a loathsome and painful Distemper, by a Method attended with little Danger and great Success, which produces, when conducted

ducted by the skilful Physician, rather more than one can well expect from it. The Confinement recommended has further Service, it keeps the Patients from catching other contagious Disorders, which no wise Man would have to deal with at the same Time, if he could avoid it. This Time likewise discovers more evidently the Habit of Body, and its Ailments, and what is to be feared is more plainly distinguished. The Course to be steered is better known, what Sail can be carried, how the Haven lies, where the Rocks and Sands, and how the desired Land is to be made and gained with Safety.

Great Confidence of doing well, is wonderfully serviceable in all Sickness, especially in this; conceived good Opinion gives Courage to attempt an Undertaking, and this is greatly strengthened by knowing you shall be assisted therein by all necessary Means, and have the most able to defend and support you throughout, happen what will; this is always in your Power, who
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enter upon Inoculation; you can chuse them, who are known to be the most skilful, and be under their Direction; Time and Place convenient may be taken, and whatever is known to be prejudicial may be shunned.

It is well known, that some have been inoculated once, without having any Appearance of any thing that could be called the Disease; being contented with this, nothing else has been done; afterwards they have been seized by accidental Contagion, and have died by it, when they imagined themselves secure. This affords another Reason for preferring the Physician to the Surgeon in this Undertaking, as he knows best the Distemper where he sees it; and if what appears is not satisfactory, a Repetition of the Operation will be insisted on, with proper Cautions, and no Means omitted, that can leave any Room to doubt of Security for the future.

What an Addition must it be to any one's Grief, for the Loss of a Child, Re-
lation,

lation, or Friend, who has suffered from Inoculation, if he finds upon mature Deliberation, that he has not had what he might have had, to secure Success to his Enterprize? On the other hand, if he is sensible, that this was obtained as far as it lay in his Power, surely it will be no small Comfort to his Affliction, especially as it concerns a Thing very adviseable, and now evidently proved to be the Running of a very small Danger, to escape a very great one. Accidents happening, clearly demonstrate, that it is highly necessary not to be negligent of any Advantage, which Inoculation gives beyond the Disease by accidental Infection; and there is no Method in that respect, in the Cure of any other Complaint, equal to this. Should any one chuse an improper Person for this Purpose, and has the Misfortune to meet with some considerable Evil, he does not only a private, but a public Injury, bringing by his own Imprudence Scandal to the Practice, by which

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others

others are deterred and hindered from obtaining many Benefits which would fall by it to their Lot.

To conclude, can any one think of a Surgeon for Inoculation, when from the Nature of the Thing, and the little that properly belongs to him in it, he can have no Right to assume what so clearly belongs to the Physician, who has strictly a just and reasonable Claim to the largest Share of whatsoever is to be done in this Business. So that in case a Man determines to employ but one, he cannot do better than take the Physician; or if he makes use of the Surgeon only, he may with much the same Propriety, when a Leg is broke, or one is to be cut for the Stone, send then for the Physician instead of the Surgeon.

However, I would not be understood, by what the Truth of the Case required me to say, not to have the due Regard for Surgery, knowing it to be a very use-

ful and necessary Art to Mankind. I am also convinced, that the Gentlemen who profess it deserve great Commendation for what they have done to make it more perfect, and in their Province, as they go on with great Merit, I declare they are worthy of the highest Esteem.

F I N I S.



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and I should be glad to hear of
any one who would be willing to
take a copy of the Constitution for
them they have done to make it more
and in their hands as they go
and in their hands, I believe they are
very much interested in it.

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